

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

The indication by the Examiner that Claims 6, 7, 10, 20-24 and 33-34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is hereby acknowledged.

Independent base Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 10 and a portion of the subject matter of dependent Claim 9 but not of intervening dependent Claims 2 and 8. Thus, amended independent Claim 1 is equivalent to Claim 10 rewritten in independent form but without the subject matters of intervening Claims 2 and 8. It is submitted that Applicant is entitled to amended independent Claim 1 of somewhat broader scope as provided by absence of the limitations of dependent Claims 2 and 8, since none of the cited prior art patents teach or suggest the pair of holders of the housing of semi-cylindrical configuration that fit and fasten together to provide the housing with the annular configuration and define the passage therethrough receiving the portion of the handle shaft. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to conform them to the amendment introduced in Claim 1. Also, the dependency of Claim 9 has been changed to Claim 2. Claim 10 has been canceled. Accordingly, amended Claim 1 and Claims 2-5, 8 and 9 which depend directly or indirectly thereon are now presented in allowable form. No new matter has been introduced.

Allowable dependent Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matters of independent base Claim 1 and intervening dependent Claim 2. Accordingly, amended Claim 6 and Claim 7 which depends thereon are now presented in allowable form. No new matter has been introduced.

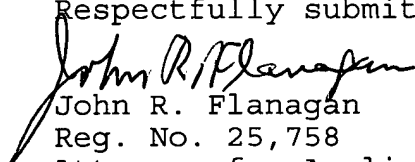
Independent base Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 22, the subject matters of intervening dependent Claims 14 and 16 and also the subject

matter of dependent Claim 15. Thus, amended independent Claim 11 is equivalent to Claim 22 rewritten in independent form. Claims 14-16, 22, 25 and 26 have been canceled. Claims 17-19 have been amended to change their dependencies to Claim 11. Accordingly, amended Claim 11 and Claims 12, 13, 17-19, 21, 23 and 24 which depend directly or indirectly thereon are presented in allowable form. No new matter has been introduced.

Independent base Claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 33 and the subject matter of intervening Claim 29. Claims 30-32 and 34 have been amended to change their dependencies to Claim 27. Claims 29, 33 and 36 have been canceled. Accordingly, amended Claim 27 and Claims 28, 30-32, 34 and 35 which depend directly thereon are presented in allowable form. No new matter has been introduced.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 1-9, 11-13, 17-21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30-32, 34 and 35, as presented herein, are considered to distinguish over the prior art of record, and thereby to be patentable. Thus, favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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